

PATENT**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraphs [0010] and [0057] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0010] Neither approach provides both reduced overhead and large or rapid rate adjustments. An example of an approach to meet this need is disclosed in co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. ~~XXXX,XXX~~ 10/780,824 (ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 030525), entitled "COMBINING GRANT, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AND RATE CONTROL COMMANDS", filed February 17, 2004, assigned to the assignee of the present invention. In addition, it may be desirable to reduce the number of control channels, while maintaining desirable probability of error for the associated commands on the control channels. There is a need in the art for a system that provides the ability to control the rates of (or the allocation of resources to) both individual mobile stations as well as groups of mobile stations, without unduly increasing channel count. Furthermore, there is a need to be able to tailor the probability of error of various rate control or acknowledgement commands. An example of an approach to meet this need is disclosed in co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/781,285 ~~XXXX,XXX~~ (Attorney Docket No. 030560), entitled "EXTENDED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RATE CONTROL CHANNEL", filed February 17, 2004, assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

[0057] Scheduler 240, in base station 104, is used to determine whether and how data should be transmitted to one or more mobile stations within the serving cell's coverage area. Any type of scheduling algorithm can be deployed within the scope of the present invention. One example is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application No. 08/798,951, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORWARD LINK RATE SCHEDULING", filed February 11, 1997, abandoned, assigned to the assignee of the present invention.